

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

In re Patent Application of:
GREGG

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL 768537539 us

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

DATE OF DEPOSIT FEB. 21, 2002

Filing Date: HERewith

I hereby certify that the enclosed is a true and correct copy of the original as filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office for deposit in the Service Unit of the Office of the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

For: **SYSTEM FOR MAKING WALLBOARD
OR BACKERBOARD SHEETS
INCLUDING AERATED CONCRETE**

Dawn Kimler
(TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)
Dawn Kimler
(SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of fees and examination of the present application, please enter the amendments and remarks set out below.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 17.

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Unfortunately, conventional cementitious backerboards may be more difficult to score and break to size. Moreover, since the backerboards include a core of cement, their density is considerably greater than even conventional gypsum wallboard. Accordingly, manufacturers may offer the backerboards in smaller sizes to be more readily handled by the installer, but such increases seams between sheets and also increases costs of installation. A typically-sized 4

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foot by 8 foot sheet can weigh well over 100 pounds, which is very unwieldy especially in confined spaces.--

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Aerated concrete may be used in the form of panels or individual building blocks. It has been used for residences; commercial, industrial and agricultural buildings; schools; hospitals; etc. and is a good material in most all climates. Panels or blocks may be joined together using common mortar or thin set glue mortar or adhesive. Aerated concrete has durability similar to conventional concrete or stone and a workability perhaps better than wood. The material can be cut or sawn and readily receives expandable fasteners. Aerated concrete has a thermal insulation six to ten times better than conventional concrete. The material is also non-rotting, non-toxic and resistant to termites.--

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A variation of this method embodiment is now explained with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 11. In this embodiment, prime notation is used to indicate similar steps which need no further explanation. In accordance with the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 11, the body is divided into sheets at Block **105**, and is then cured at Block **107**. Thereafter, the cured sheets are used as the core material and to which the face layer(s) are secured as described above. This embodiment may offer the advantage of slightly easier cutting of the body, since it has not been fully cured; however, the ultimate dimensional accuracy of the sheets may

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be less compared to first curing the body and then cutting the body into cured sheets. Of course, a combination of some cutting or shaping before curing and further cutting or shaping after curing are also contemplated by the present invention.--

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring now to the flowchart of FIG. 13, yet another embodiment of the method is now described. This embodiment is directed to a more continuous manufacturing operation. More particularly, from the start (Block **150**) the materials for making aerated concrete are dispensed in slurry form onto at least one face layer (Block **152**), typically as the face layer is advanced along a conveyor, for example. The slurry may alternatively be dispensed onto a surface, e.g. a stainless steel surface, instead of directly onto the face layer. The dwell time on the conveyor may desirably be sufficient to allow the materials to rise and stiffen, and optionally cured, (Block **154**) before cutting into final lengths (Block **156**). Thereafter, the sheets may be packaged and shipped at Block **158** before stopping (Block **160**). Of course in other embodiments, it is also possible to cut the core material before final curing. This may be especially desirably where conventional autoclave curing is performed which may require a relatively long dwell time in the heated chamber. However, other curing techniques, such as the addition of microwave radiation are also contemplated which may provide for near continuous curing of the core material as will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art.--

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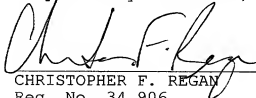
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REMARKS

It is believed that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should the Examiner determine any minor informalities that need to be addressed, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17, has been amended as follows:

--Unfortunately, conventional cementitious backerboards may be more difficult to score and break to size. Moreover, since the backerboards include a core of cement, their density is considerably greater than even conventional gypsum [gypsym] wallboard. Accordingly, manufacturers may offer the backerboards in smaller sizes to be more readily handled by the installer, but such increases seams between sheets and also increases costs of installation. A typically-sized 4 foot by 8 foot sheet can weigh well over 100 pounds, which is very unwieldy especially in confined spaces.--

Paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12, has been amended as follows:

--Aerated concrete may be used in the form of panels or individual building blocks. It has been used for residences; commercial, industrial and agricultural buildings; schools; hospitals; etc. and is a good material in most all climates. Panels or blocks may be joined together using common mortar or thin set glue mortar or adhesive. Aerated concrete has durability similar to conventional concrete or stone and a workability perhaps better than wood. The material can be cut or sawn and readily receives expandable fasteners. Aerated concrete has a thermal insulation [conductivity] six to ten times better than conventional concrete. The material is also non-rotting, non-toxic and resistant to termites.--

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Paragraph beginning on page 18, line 32, has been amended as follows:

--A variation of this method embodiment is now explained with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 11. In this embodiment, prime notation is used to [indicated] indicate similar steps which need no further explanation. In accordance with the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 11, the body is divided[, but not separated or cut,] into sheets at Block 105, and is then cured at Block 107. Thereafter, the cured sheets are used as the core material and to which the face layer(s) are secured as described above. This embodiment may offer the advantage of slightly easier cutting of the body, since it has not been fully cured; however, the ultimate dimensional accuracy of the sheets may be less compared to first curing the body and then cutting the body into cured sheets. Of course, a combination of some cutting or shaping before curing and further cutting or shaping after curing are also contemplated by the present invention.--

Paragraph beginning on page 20, line 10, has been amended as follows:

--Referring now to the flowchart of FIG. 13, yet another embodiment of the method is now described. This embodiment is directed to a more continuous manufacturing operation. More particularly, from the start (Block 150) the materials for making aerated concrete are dispensed in slurry form onto at least one face layer (Block 152), typically as the face layer is advanced along a conveyor, for example. The slurry may alternatively be dispensed [dispensed] onto a surface, e.g. a stainless steel surface, instead of directly onto the face layer. The dwell time on the conveyor may desirably be sufficient to allow the materials to rise and stiffen, and

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